

REMARKS

The distinguishing feature of the invention is the incorporation of a stapler into a multi-purpose housing, so that the housing can operate the stapler and function as a stapler actuating member. This is accomplished by having a stapler base be integrated with the housing periphery, and the stapler actuating member be operatively connected to the housing.

None of the cited art remotely teach or suggest the above beneficial feature. For example, the open end of Chiou's stapler 21 is butted up against plate 111. Thus, it would be impossible to operate the stapler when it is located in notch 11 of Chiou's base form.

The patent to Orozco describes a base stapler 20 resting on top of a base 10. This is inapposite to fitting a stapler into a housing. Moreover, the stapler is operated with impact button 22. Operating a stapler with a button is the antithesis of Applicant's invention.

The patents to Ng and Padden concern card-like housings with pockets for holding a variety of implements. Fitting a stapler into the pocket of a thin, card-like housing would be impossible and, if such were accomplished, there is no way a stapler could function when constrained within a pocket.

App. No.: 10/015,191

Filed: 11/21/2001

Atty Dkt: HM-69621

Request for Continued Examination and Amendments under 37

CFR 1.114

Thanh K. Truong, Patent Examiner

Art Unit 3721

Title: MULTI-PURPOSE OFFICE TOOL

In view of the above remarks, remoteness of the prior art and, clarifying amendments to the Claims, it is believed the present application is in a condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: August 11, 2005

Kenneth J. Hovet, Reg. No. 25,988

Attorney for Applicant

Nordman, Cormany, Hair & Compton

P.O. Box 9100

Oxnard, CA 93031-9100

Tel: (805) 988-8346

Fax: (805) 988-7746

e-mail:khovet@nchc.com